

BACK TO
MV CARTELA
WEEK
1996
EXCURSION
HOBART
to
TARANNA

With

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The 1996 *MV Cartela* Cruise

From Hobart to Taranna & Return

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The Derwent Estuary

The undeveloped state of the Derwent estuary allowed many historic sites to survive. The eastern shore was protected by lack of a bridge until 1944. Historic sites include aboriginal camps, bay whaling stations, convict stations, historic houses, jetties and farm houses.

European Exploration.

1642. Abel Tasman, Dutch	William Bligh (English).
1772. Nicholas Marion du Fresne (French)	Entrecasteaux & Huon de Kermadec. (French).
	John Hayes. (English).
1773. James Cook. (English).	Bass & Flinders. (NSW)
1777. James Cook. (English).	Baudin. (French).
1788. <i>First Fleet Arrives, NSW</i>	British settlement/invasion
1788. William Bligh. English.	

Aboriginal Occupation.

Evidence from explorers of tribes on Bruny Island. Contact between Bligh, D'Entrecasteaux and Baudin here. After settlement/invasion, increasingly brutal treatment of the Aboriginal people resulting in retaliation attacks. In 1804 Collin's boat returned from Betsy Island with an Aboriginal man, covered with charcoal and a bag made of kangaroo skin around his neck which contained the teeth of a tribal member.

Bellerive Bluff Battery.

Installed with Crimean War fear.

Wrest Point.

Originally Chaffey's Point, then Dunkleys Point. Site of early Hobart gallows and now Wrest Point Hotel Casino!

Mt Nelson Signal Station

Semaphore station signalled two systems to Battery Point.

- i) 1810 - 1880, estuary shipping arrivals, and
- ii) 1830 - 1870, relayed signals from Port Arthur and other convict stations on Tasman Peninsula.

Crayfish Point. 'Up-market' *Retreat Inn* (licensee Mrs Baines 1830's). Frequented by diarist GW Boyes. 'It was a warm sunny morning and the sands were so white and the water transparent. I am going to spend next Sunday there.'

Whaling Stations.

The first phase of whaling - bay whaling for the right whales calving around July - is recalled by numerous trywork sites.

- (i) Tryworks Point, 1805. Established by Willaim Collins, brother of David Collins, settlement leader. First whaling station in Tasmania.
- (ii) Frederick Henry Bay. Knopwood reports Collins taking in oil there in 1805-6.
- (iii) Iron Pot Light?
- (iv) Tinderbox
- (v) Slopen Island
- (vi) One Tree Point, Bruni Island.

Frederick Henry Bay.

Named by Abel Tasman, 1642. Sheltered *HMS Ocean* February 1804 with Collins first settlement party where Harris viewed 'as beautiful a country in appearance as I ever saw.'

South Arm.

Large group of Aborigines brought to Hobart, 1814. Granted from 1825 to GBH Gellibrand. Later leased and sold to various tenants, eg Calverts, Alomes and Musks. Orchards and 'pink eye' potato growing area. Served by river steamers stopping at Opossum Bay. Calverts operated their own schooners such as the '*Seacroft*' to Hobart.

Shot Tower.

Joseph Moir, builder, 1870. 'Shot' made for local rifle clubs.

Bruni Island.

Home of Aboriginal tribe. Landfall for European explorers. Surveyed in 1798 by John Hayes and called 'William Pitt Island'. Many features still bear names of French expeditionaries or VIPs. Early land grants on the northern tip to Denne and Kelly.

THE DERWENT WATERWAY.

Now an 'obstacle', Storm Bay was a highway to early settlers who travelled by schooner, barge (ie river ketch) and steamer across the waterway. People worked at sawmills, attended chopping matches and church fairs. Produce was shipped to Hobart and overseas. Marriages were made across water; eg Calverts from South Arm married Youngs from North Bruny.

Iron Pot Light.

Aboriginal name, Kar.ter.loon.ne. Oldest lighthouse in continual use in original structure. Called Iron Pot by 1816. Named from iron pot used in tryworks pot? In 1833, temporary timber spars replaced by first sandstone tower built, JL Archer designed. 1858, 2 storey keepers house built replacing small stone cottages. 1865 scene of brief 'Gold Rush.' 1895, severe storm left kelp hanging from lighthouse guard rail. Children of lighthouse keeper Johnstone rowed to South Arm and rode by pony to school, weather permitting. (KM Stanley, Guiding Lights)

Betsy Island.

(380 acres) Occupied by Aborigines; & called Lor.by.lar.ner &/or Teremeteletta. Called Willaumez, after a ship's officer, by D'Entrecasteaux (1793). Renamed Betsy by Hayes. Surveyed by G.P. Harris in June 1804 when convicts used smoke to signal ship arrivals. 1814, rest of South Arm Aborigines found on Bruni Island. Occupied by James King, 1827, who bred rabbits, pheasants, and peacocks here. His house and farmed paddocks were visible in 1848. Resurveyed by James Calder in 1837 and again in 1848 with a party of 11 convicts led by great seaman and notorious bolter, John Jones. Calder found 4 deserters from American whaleship *Cicero*. In 1840 purchased by Lady Jane Franklin, after hearing Sir John say it would make a nice country house for a Lt Governor.' Paid £920 from Mr Bell who had just bought it for £600. It remained her property until 1868 when she donated it to the 'people of Tasmania' in trust for use of the Tasmanian Acclimatisation Society. Once called Franklin Island.

Betsy's Reef.

On 16 Nov, 1857 the schooner *Circassian* capsized off Bruni Island. She was towed to Hobart by steamer *Cobra*. On 15 March 1868, Cutter *Prince of Wales* on a voyage from Hobart to Pittwater struck a reef in Betsy's Narrows and was lost. 1995, 'Seacat' marooned here by inexperienced master for several weeks, refloated.

Willaumez Island

(Little Betsy Is) see above. Small rocks feature in Aboriginal folk legend; In remote ancestry a party of women were chased by men, and fleeing from Betsy Island, swam in fear while pursued by the men. The Evil Spirit saw their predicament and froze the men into the rocks that still remain. (Calder p15)

Forestier Peninsula

Named after a member of Baudin's ships company. Separated from the Tasmanian mainland by East Bay Neck. Originally site of tramway for whale boats and later military guard line. Canal mooted by Denison in 1854, but not constructed until 1904.

Norfolk Bay.

Discovered by D'Entrecasteaux officer, Willaumez. Named by Flinders after his sloop.

Flinders Bay Probation Station c1841.

Site of short lived convict probation station.

King George Sound.

(Village of Murdunna) name source uncertain.

The Sounds Station c 1840s

Location of convict period slaughter-house complex, providing meat for prisoners at Probation Stations on Tasman Peninsula. Shipped for distribution to Norfolk Bay Commissariat Store.

Whaling barque *Fanny Nicholson* was wrecked at KGS after parting her anchors. 70 tons of oil on board was brought to Hobart by the barque *Free Trader*.

Islands of Norfolk Bay.

Spectacle Island

Isle of Caves (Dumpling Island)

Fulham Island (Low Island) after local property

Smooth Island (named Smooth by Flinders, renamed Garden Island by Scott, 1824, reverted to Smooth.)

King George Island

Tasman Peninsula.

Little Norfolk Bay.

Separates Forestier and Tasman Peninsula, ends at Eaglehawk Neck.

Tasman Peninsula.

Sighted by Abel Tasman in 1642. Separated from Forestier Peninsula by Eaglehawk Neck. Ignored after first settlement. Section of NW tip granted to Gellibrand c1828. Converted to a prison due to isolation by Lt Gov Arthur. Following survey in 1828, Port Arthur secondary punishment station established in 1830. (Macquarie Harbour and Maria Is Stations then closed.) Military station established at Eaglehawk Neck, assisted by guard dogs, 1834. Coal mine opened by convict labourers in 1834.

Probation Stations. Four established on the northern coast in the 1840's. Unique to Tasmania. All featured quarters for Visiting Magistrate, Superintendent, Religious Instructor, Medical Officer and up to 14 other senior staff. Minor positions filled by prisoners. Military guards until 1863. Construction managed by Royal Engineers. (see MacFie, 1984)

Free settlement After closure of Port Arthur in 1877, probation stations and land sold. Port Arthur became a tourist centre, while small farmers purchased farmland. Strong supportive fundamentalist community.

Slping (Slopen) Island/ Slopen Main Station

Site of (i) whaling station operated by Kelly in 1824 funded by Bethune and Grant, also Lucas and Meredith (see Evans, K.) eg 1826, Caledonia sealing a SI. (Knopwood) (ii) temporary probation station c 1842. remnant buildings, well. Later used for acclimatisation. eg Angora goats, quail. Semaphore station & guard boats until c1869. Used by various 19thC vice regal shooting parties. (Calder)

Slopen Main. Early Gellibrand grant, 1829. Planned as boys prison site, then moved to Pt Puer. Post 1877 farming.

Hog Island.

Scottish name for a small isle. Known to fishermen as Goat Island.

Lagoon Beach.

Beautiful beach and wildlife reserve inland.

Green Point

Constable guard station.

Lime Bay

Named for sea shells collected by prisoners for burning into lime. Site of Constable's Lookout station, one of a series to watch for escaping prisoners. Post 1877, accommodation house. Now camping reserve.

Coal Mines Convict Station

1834 - 1854. Opened by colonial government under Commandant O'Hara Booth, as convict-worked series of adits and tunnels, some still visible. Military station located here. Managed by former prisoners, including William Dawson and Zephaniah Williams, Welsh Chartist political prisoner. Steam engine made by Hobart firm of Clark & Davidson. Last shaft 101 yards deep. Tramways ran to jetties. 403 prisoners in 1847. Closed for 'moral and economic reasons.' in 1848; ie venereal diseases. Operated briefly by private enterprise. *Free Settlement.* Remnant ruins of several buildings. Now a national park.

Mt Communication.

Last semaphore station relaying messages to Mt Nelson/Hobart from Port Arthur. Direct line of sight to Eaglehawk Neck via Halfway Bluff.

Saltwater River Probation Station

Operated 1841-50? Worked as agricultural station, growing wheat, crops. Windmill started. Remnant structures include hospital, officers' quarters, cells, superintendent's house. Military officer's house and barracks. In 1842, an officer and 13 soldiers of 96th Regiment stationed here. Restricted by lack of water. In 1847, 499 prisoners located here. Most prisoners ex Port Arthur. Superintendent Pringle was removed for poor management and replaced by Lt Wheeler. There were 4 blacksmiths, 11 brickmakers and 11 bricklayers. 66 were carting, 129 clearing and cultivating, 10 quarrying, 11 making nails, 70 in road parties, 60 stock-keepers and 14 sawyers.

Free Settlement. Station buildings sold; now privately owned.

Deer Point

Last refuge of original 500+ deer acclimatised on Tasman Peninsula until shot out in the 1920s.

Halfway Bluff Semaphore Station

Operated c1836-70. Direct line of site between Eaglehawk Neck and the Coal Mines. Used by navy for gunnery practice over the Bluff to bamboo rafts c 1910.

Impression Bay Probation Station. (Premaydena).1841-51.

By 1842 400 prisoners. Became Invalid Station for geriatric convicts. Large complex now vanished. Poor soil. 445 men in 1847, 100 invalids and 307 probationers. The military barracks became second hospital. By 1860 was used as a quarantine station.

Free Settlement. Post 1877 Station demolished for bricks and stone by Chestermans. Renamed Premaydena, became first point of entry for new settlers, and briefly district HQ's c1900. eg weatherboard Court House. Extant buildings include Superintendent's House, Officers House, all privately owned. Became quarantine station. see below. Extensive jetty

Premaydena Point.

Used as convict station burial ground. In 1854 the immigrant ship *Persian*, with settlers from Scottish islands forced to anchor after outbreak of typhoid. Up to 14 people buried, some with surviving headstones. Reserved (see R. Lord)

Price's Bay.

Name unknown, possibly early settler.

Cascades Probation Station. (Koonya). 1841-56.

Best surviving example of a probation station. Buildings either brick or stone. Cells, brick hospital, officers' quarters, mess hall all extant. 136 celled two tiered cell block, school house and chapel vanished. Large steam sawmill located in valley 2 km from jetty, cutting timber for shipment to Hobart. Large quantities cut here. eg Pt Arthur, and for *SS Kangaroo*. 403 prisoners, 104 in chains, plus boys, in 1847.

Free Settlement. Since 1915 old Station owned by Clarks. Additional timber cottages built, hall and jetty.

Woody Island. (Dart Island)

Semaphore & guard boat station til c1869.

Eaglehawk Neck Military Station, 1834-1870.

Once barracks, boat shed etc. Brick-nogged Officer's Cottage only reminder, once known as Honeymoon Cottage, 'soft' posting for newly-wed officers. Lt Gov Denison's family stayed here. (note Norfolk pine)

Free Settlement. Officer's Cottage used as home by Risbys for new timber mill. (Costello family last resident.) Jetty for tourists seeing Blowhole and natural features. *Lufra Hotel* started by Choky Nuroo, Indian family c1920. 'Excursionists' visited Blowhole, Tasman's Arch

Norfolk Bay Station. (Taranna) 1834-77.

Protected waterway & preferred access to Pt Arthur, especially for small groups and genteel visitors. Operated as i) start of Pt Arthur Railway; ii) Commissariat Department HQ during probation period eg meat distributed by boat from Sounds. Extant building Commissariat Store.

Free Settlement. Boarding house and PO, and visitor access to Pt Arthur by coach. PO run by 3 Misses Price for many years. Now guest house.

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